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CONGRESSIONAL DOCUMENT.

DEFENCE OF THE WESTERN FRONTIER.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

In compliance with a resolution of the Senate of the 14th of October, 1837, in relation to the protection of the western frontier of the United States.

DEPARTMENT OF WAR, December 30, 1837.

SIR: In answer to the resolution of the Senate, in relation to the protection of the western frontiers of the United States, I have the honor to transmit the accompanying reports of the Chief Engineer and the acting Quartermaster General, together with a report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. That expected from Gen. Gaines will be sent as soon as it is received.

In presenting these documents, which are ably drawn up, and contain full and satisfactory information on all the topics embraced by the resolution, I might have considered my duty fully discharged, had not other plans been previously recommended, which I regard as entirely inefficient, but which have received, in some measure, the sanction of Congress. A survey has been directed, to determine the line of a road, which it is contemplated shall extend from some point upon the Upper Mississippi to Red river, passing west of Missouri and Arkansas; and it is proposed to place a cordon of temporary posts of ordinary construction along it, as a sufficient measure for the defence of that part of the country. In pursuance of the orders of Congress, officers have been appointed to perform the duty, and upon their report being received, measures will be taken to carry into effect the intentions of Congress, unless, upon a deliberate review of the whole matter, some more eligible plan of defence shall be adopted. My own opinion has been, from the time I first considered the subject, that such a chain of posts strung along the best road that can be constructed, furnished with all the means to operate, and with competent garrisons to occupy them, is not calculated to afford that protection which the border States have a right to expect from the Government, nor to redeem its pledge to protect the emigrant tribes from the savage and warlike people that surround them. The only possible use of such a road would be to facilitate occasional communications between the posts in time of peace. Supplies would not be transported along it, for they must be brought from the interior. Succors could not reach the posts by that direction, for they would be furnished by the militia within the line; and any attempt to concentrate the forces composing the garrisons in the event of an outbreak, would probably be attended with disastrous consequences, for the troops, whose route must be well known, would be exposed to be attacked and destroyed in detail. The enemy, having nothing to dread on their flanks or rear, might approach this road without risk, and attack the detachments on their line of march, before they could concentrate their forces so as to offer an effectual resistance.

After mature reflection, I am of opinion that military posts ought to be established and kept up within the Indian territory, in such positions as to maintain peace among the Indians, and protect the emigrant and feeble tribes against the stronger and more warlike nations that surround them; which the United States are bound to do by treaty stipulations. To withdraw those which now exist there would be to violate our faith, as there is reason to apprehend that it would be the signal of war. Persons well acquainted with that country assure us that war would break out among the Indians "just so soon as the troops are removed from those posts;" and all accounts from that quarter confirm that impression.

Independently of the military protection which the existence of these posts in the interior of the Indian country afford to the emigrating tribes, and the good they are calculated to effect by the beneficial influence the officers are enabled to exert over the surrounding Indians, they more effectually cover and protect the frontier than ten times the number of fortresses, strung along in one line, could do.

With the very limited knowledge of that country as yet in possession of this Department, it appears to me that six or seven permanent exterior posts would be sufficient to preserve the peace of that frontier. It will be necessary, at the same time, to establish, at convenient points, an interior line of posts, to serve as places of refuge for the inhabitants in periods of danger and alarm, until the militia can march to their succor from the interior, and the troops be put in motion upon the rear of the invaders. Eight of these would be amply sufficient, from which patrols might be kept up along the frontier to enforce the intercourse laws. Both descriptions of forts should be so constructed as to be defended by a small garrison, and in a manner that each part may be successfully maintained against a very superior force, both during the time the whole is being completed, and in the event of any portion of it being burnt or destroyed. This arrangement would require the establishment of a few depots of arms and supplies, from which communications should be opened to the posts. The accompanying skeleton map presents a view of the relative positions of the posts and depots, and of the communications from them to the line of defence for the speedy transportation of succors and supplies. A regular force of five thousand men would be sufficient to garrison these posts, and with a competent reserve at Jefferson barracks, and an efficient force at Baton Rouge, would, I think, insure the safety of the western frontier, enable the Government to fulfil all its treaty stipulations, and preserve its faith with the Indians. I would recommend, as an important auxiliary to this system of defence, the organization of an efficient volunteer force, to be raised in each of the frontier States; the men to be mustered into service for a certain term of time, the officers to be appointed according to their State laws, and to be instructed a certain number of days in each year by the regular officers of the United States army at the posts within the States, and to receive pay during that period. In this manner an efficient corps of officers may be created, and a body of volunteers be at hand to march to the succor of the border settlers and repel the invaders, whenever they are called upon by the proper authority.

I venture to hope, if these measures are adopted by Congress, and carried into effect at an early day, so as to anticipate any hostile movement of the Indians, peace will be preserved on our western borders; but if they should, unfortunately, be delayed until the discontent which exists among many of the tribes breaks out into open hostility, and the first movements of that wild and warlike people prove successful, as they infallibly would do in our present unprepared state, it might require double the force, and quadruple the means, I have here indicated, to restore and preserve peace along that extended frontier.

All which is respectfully submitted.

J. R. POINSETT.

Hon. R. M. JOHNSON,

President of the Senate.

ENGINEER DEPARTMENT,
October 31, 1837.

Sir: In compliance with your instructions, I have the honor to submit, herewith, a project for the defence of the western frontier of the United States,

prepared in conformity with the resolution of the House of Representatives, of the 11th instant, on that subject.

I have the honor to be,

Very respectfully, sir,

Your most obedient servant,

C. GRATIOT.

The Hon. J. R. POINSETT,

Secretary of War.

Project for the defence of the western frontier of the United States, bounded as follows, viz :

Beginning at the mouth of the Sabine river, on the Gulf of Mexico, and running up said river to its intersection with the meridional territorial line; thence along this line by Texas, to its junction with the Red river; thence along the western boundary of Arkansas and Missouri, to the mouth of the Kansas; thence up the Missouri river, to its union with the north boundary of the State of Missouri; and thence following the external line of the territory over which the Indian title has been extinguished, to Lake Superior, by the country to which the tribes east of the Mississippi have been removed, and which is in part still occupied by aborigines.

This line, the development of which cannot be precisely stated, but which is not short of 2,000 miles, will, on account of the physical nature of the country it crosses, and the relations to be entertained with the people beyond it, be divided into three sections, for each of which a particular system of defence ought to be considered, viz: the southern, embracing Texas on two sides; the middle, from Red river to the Great Platte; and the northern, passing through the regions east of the Missouri river, and north of the Platte.

First section.—Texas is in the occupancy of a people with whom the United States entertain the closest relations of friendship, which, it is believed, can never be interrupted; and but for the peculiarity of her position in reference to another neighbor, and the fact that the northern frontier of her territory is but sparsely settled, and consequently unable to resist or prevent the passage of an Indian war party on its way to strike at our people, the presence of a military force near her eastern frontier, other than what is required to enforce the revenue laws, would hardly be needed. Circumstanced as she is, however, both as regards her political relations, and having a large numeral force of Indians to the north, whose disposition to aggression is well understood, the occupancy of some convenient positions within striking distance of the lines of communication to and from her northern frontier is rendered of primary necessity. The positions to be occupied, and the force at each, must be regulated by circumstances to be developed by time, and the knowledge yet to be acquired of the country, as regards the facilities it may be made to afford for prompt movements and easy transportation of supplies. For the present, the force should be limited to what seems to be absolutely wanted to maintain the neutrality of our territory on one side, and on the other, restrain the rising disposition of the Indian hordes further north from breaking out into open hostilities; and be so posted as to be able to concentrate at, or afford relief to, any given point, in the shortest time. Before, however, a system of positions and communications can be adopted with any certainty of attaining those indispensable conditions, the country on both sides of the territorial line should be carefully considered by skilful topographers, with a view to ascertain the points of easiest access, and the best location for the establishment of posts and routes of communication, either by water or over land. In the mean time, the navigable streams, tributary to the Mississippi, from which the principal supplies are to be drawn, should be freed of their obstructions to the head of navigation; the Sabine, which is known to furnish a good navigation, should, in like manner, be cleared; the posts of Jesup and Towson put in a state of defence;

and the roads leading from the interior of Louisiana to the crossings of the Sabine be also put in order. These preliminaries being accomplished, it is believed the frontier along this section could be kept quiet by the presence of a moderate force, not to exceed three regiments of infantry, three companies of light artillery, and eight troops of light cavalry; which might safely be reduced one regiment of infantry and one company of artillery, on the return of better times to Texas. This force should be posted, one regiment of infantry and one company of artillery at Jesup; one regiment of infantry, four troops of cavalry, and one company of artillery at Towson, which post will constitute the extreme left of defence for the middle division, and will accordingly be again adverted to; and the remainder, as a reserve, at Baton Rouge; from which point it could, as the necessity of the moment required, be transported in steamers, at any season of the year, in two days, to Natchitoches, on its way to Jesup; in four to Towson, and in about the same time to the crossing of the road from Natchitoches to Nacogdoches, on the Sabine.

And if at any time the service of this reserve should be required in Arkansas, it could be landed opposite Memphis, in Tennessee, where the National road towards Little Rock begins, in four days at most. It could also relieve Mobile and Pensacola in less than three.

From the foregoing statement, the importance of a strong reserve at Baton Rouge, for the purposes of prompt relief, is made manifest. The advantages of this position should not, therefore, be overlooked in maturing a system of frontier protection.

Second, or middle section.—The country beyond this line is mostly elevated and free from marshy ground; is abundantly watered, thinly wooded, healthy, and has been assigned for the permanent residence of the tribes which have been, or are to be, removed from the States and Territories east of the Mississippi, and is still occupied by the aborigines originally found within its limits. In numbers they count, according to some estimates, 131,000, and can send to the field 26,200 warriors. As yet no community of feeling, except of deep and lasting hatred to the white man, and more particularly to the Anglo-Americans, exists among them: and, unless they coalesce, no serious difficulty need be apprehended from them. Not so, however, should they be induced to unite for purposes offensive and defensive; their strength would then become apparent, create confidence, and, in all probability, induce them to give vent to their long suppressed desire to revenge past wrongs, which is restrained, as they openly and freely declare, by fear alone. That such a union will be formed, at no distant day, we have every reason to believe; and the period may be accelerated by their growing wants, and the policy of Mexico to annoy Texas, and raise an impenetrable barrier in the direction of her frontier.

In consideration, then, of the number of these people, and the nature of the country they possess to operate in, the extent of our border settlements and their defenceless condition, it behooves the United States to take timely measures to give permanent security to that frontier.

This desirable object can, it is apprehended, alone be effected by the intervention of a strong restraining military force, judiciously posted both in and near the territory of the Indian; or by his ultimate civilization, and its attendant division and tenure of real property in his individual right. Until, however, the latter is accomplished, the first must be applied as the only immediate conservative. Having arrived at this conclusion, the next questions are: What shall this force be? How posted? And what auxiliary lines of communication should be established to secure to it the means of supply, relief, and rapid movement? To each of these, answers will briefly be attempted.

1. The left of the line of principal positions to be

occupied on this division of the frontier, will, as before stated, rest on the Red river at Towson; the stationary and auxiliary force for which is put down at two regiments of infantry, two companies of artillery, and eight troops of dragoons. The next and most important position to be occupied is on the Arkansas, below the Canadian; and this is selected because of its commanding influence over the country in front, and the ease with which lines of communication to it may be established, by roads from the interior of Arkansas and Missouri, and by improving the navigation of the main river and its principal tributaries above. This position is central, or nearly so, to the front that will be presented by the most numerous and warlike tribes, which have been, and are to be removed, and who are known to entertain enmity to our people, and consequently require the presence of an imposing force to hold them in check. This force, it is thought, should not be less than two regiments of infantry, one regiment of dragoons, and two companies of light artillery, supported by two reserves, one posted at Little Rock, and consisting of one regiment of infantry, and one company of artillery; and the other at Jefferson Barracks, consisting of two regiments of infantry, and two companies of artillery. The first might, as occasion required, be pushed either up the Arkansas, across the country to Towson, or to any other point on the frontier; and the second, in like manner, over land towards the central position on the Arkansas, or to any other point north, as far as the Missouri river: and by water, during the navigable seasons, to any part of the country bordered by that river. This latter reserve could also, in seven days, by steamers, be landed at Natchitoches, and in five at St. Peter's. The next position in point of prominence and importance to be occupied, and which will be the extreme right on this section, is on the Missouri, as near the Great Platte, but north of it, as circumstances will admit. The object to be fulfilled by the presence of a force at this point, is mainly to restrain within proper bounds the aborigines residing on the waters of the latter river, and those occupying the country to the north, and prevent their disturbing the quiet secured by treaty to the tribes farther south; and, also, in connection with the force planted at St. Peter's, to hold in check the stationary and roving tribes that occupy that unceded territory between the Missouri and Mississippi rivers. The force for this place should not be less than one regiment of infantry, two troops of cavalry, and one company of artillery; making, in the aggregate, for the middle division, a necessary force of eight regiments of infantry, two regiments of dragoons, and eight companies of artillery. This force includes the reserve at Baton Rouge, and the garrison at Towson.

2. In addition to the three positions already designated, there should be established subsidiary stations, to be garrisoned by detachments from the former, where should be deposited such supplies as may be necessary for the troops that may have occasion to visit them while on reconnoitring excursions or any other service. The selection of their locality should have reference to the facilities with which they can be relieved or reached from the interior, as well as from the posts on either side. Two of these stations ought to be established in the chain of mountains lying between the Red river and the Arkansas; two others between the latter river and the Kansas; another near the mouth of the latter river, and another between it and the Platte; and, for the purpose of deterring incursions south of Towson through the Texan territory, an additional one, to be garrisoned from the reserve at Baton Rouge, might advantageously be established in the neighborhood of the Caddo agency, or Coats's Bluff, on the Red river, which is represented as a good site for the object; making, altogether, three principal stations and six

lesser ones on the first and second sections, to guard against Indian aggression. Each of these should be provided with the requisite number of quarters for officers and men, store-rooms, shops, stables, etc., arranged in a quadrangular, or any other form required by the nature of the ground, to satisfy the conditions of good defence, proper ventilation, and easy intercommunication; the whole to be covered by lines of defence, which must be determined by the locality and the arms employed; a bastioned square or higher polygon, according to circumstances, with advanced works, is recommended. For the manner of distributing the quarters, etc., within the lines of defence, the plan prepared and submitted to the Secretary of War in March last is referred to. To this the preference is given over a cantonment in the form of a hollow square, recommended by some officers, both on account of the greater compactness it admits of in the distribution of the accommodation, and the comparative ease with which such an arrangement may be defended.

When it can be done, due economy and a sense of greater security will seem to require that all buildings planted in an Indian territory should be constructed of imperishable and incombustible materials.

3. Lines of communication. These will be by water and over land. Those by water will be up the Red, Arkansas, Maramer, Missouri, and Osage rivers, and those over land will be found traced in carmine on the accompanying map, to which reference is made for their number and direction, as well as for the points they are intended to connect, viz:

First. From the auxiliary stations at Little Rock, where an arsenal is now under construction, southeast along the right bank of the Arkansas, to the town of Napoleon, at its mouth; northeast to Memphis, opposite which a landing in Arkansas is established by the United States road, which begins at that point; northeastwardly, by Jackson, St. Genevieve, and Herculaneum, to Jefferson barracks, with a branch west of Big river to the same point; north of the Arkansas river to the mouth of the Canadian; west to the head waters of Poteau river, and thence on both sides of this stream, to the subsidiary posts planted between Red and Arkansas rivers; and southwest to Washington, and thence to Towson to the west, and Coats's Bluff to the south.

Second. From Cape Girardeau, Missouri, through the populous counties of Girardeau and Madison, in that State, and those of Carroll and Washington, in Arkansas, via Talbot, etc., to the mouth of the Canadian.

Third. From Jefferson barracks, north of the Missouri, via St. Charles, Chariton, and the mouth of Grand river, to the Platte; south of the Missouri, via Jefferson City, mouth of the Kansas, or arsenal in its vicinage, subsidiary post on the great Nemahaw, to the Platte, having two branches at Jefferson City, one running north, to intersect the road north of the Missouri, and the other to the subsidiary post on the Osage river; and southwest, via Rogers-town, alias Bentonville, (at which place commences the Missouri State road to the southwest corner of the State,) to the mouth of the Canadian, having, from Delaware village, a branch to first subsidiary post north of the Arkansas. Most of the routes for the two latter States are already established, either by the United States, or the State within which they are found.

Fourth. From Coats's Bluff, in Louisiana, via the point where the boundary line strikes the Red river, across said river, to intersect the road from Washington; thence to Towson, and from the latter to the Platte, through the chain of posts recommended. It is firmly believed that these lines of communication, together with those indicated for the first division, which are also traced in carmine, will afford, in conjunction with the water routes, when per-

fect, all the facilities the utmost wants of the service can require for the maintenance of constant, prompt, and easy intercourse with the frontier. Through them will be forwarded the supplies of men, provisions, etc., drawn not only from the States within which they lie, but also from the States further to the eastward; and it may not be improper to remark, also, that by these routes, despatch will be given to the transportation of the mails from each of the stations, which is an important consideration in a military sense, and one which should not be overlooked when the propriety of establishing these or other military routes is discussed.

The first step to be taken in this matter should be to free the rivers of their obstructions to the points colored in blue on the map. The improvement of the Red and Arkansas rivers is already authorized, and the work is in progress of execution; and for the other rivers provision should be made the moment it is determined to use them as channels of relief; and, in the mean time, a minute examination of the country through which the roads, or such of them as may be adopted, are to pass, should, as a preliminary, be required of the officers to be charged with their construction. The examination, as recommended for the 1st section, should be intrusted to none but skilful topographers, and should embrace a wide range of country. The roads ought to be opened 80 feet wide, have a grade of not more than $2\frac{1}{2}$ deg., be well drained, raised in the middle at least six inches, and bridged across the minor streams. The opening, grading, and bridging of these roads should be made a military duty. And, in conclusion, it may be well to state, that their construction is the more necessary, for the reason that the communications cannot be kept up at all times by the Arkansas or Missouri, in consequence of the want of sufficient water in the first for most part of the year, and the interruption in the latter, by ice, during the cold months; and as regards the Maramec, its improvement to Big Spring will lessen the land carriage towards the Canadian more than one hundred miles; hence its introduction as one of the avenues of communication.

Third, or northern section. The country north of the territory over which the Indian title is extinguished is occupied from Lake Superior to the Mississippi by the Chippewas, Menomones, and Winnebagoes; west of this river, to the Missouri, by the Sacs and Foxes, Iowas, and Pottawatamies; and north of these tribes, by the powerful and warlike Sioux; and west of the Missouri, but north of the Platte, by the Pawnees, Ottoes, Sioux, Blackfeet, &c.; numbering in the aggregate not far from 201,000, and being able to muster 40,200 warriors. But, owing to the remote position of most of these tribes from our settlements, they could not reach them without passing through the lands of those who have been removed west. No serious cause of apprehension, then, can exist of an outbreak from any of these tribes, singly or collectively; should it however prove otherwise, the United States will, whenever they choose, be able to bring the whole Sioux force (the hereditary and irreconcilable enemy to every other Indian) to bear against the hostiles; or vice versa, should our difficulties be with the latter; and the suggestion is made, whether prudence does not require that those hereditary feelings should not rather be maintained than destroyed, by efforts to cultivate a closer union between those people.

The only important station for this section is at Fort Snelling, near the mouth of the St. Peter's; and it is believed no other point need be occupied to enforce peace between the tribes, and cause our borders to be respected. A subsidiary post might, however, be established at Longue Pointe, or Fond du Lac, on Lake Superior, for the purpose of protection to our traders in that quarter; and a second one could also advantageously be established between the St. Peter's

and the Platte, as a point of rest and supply to detachments passing from one river to the other.

The communication from St. Peter's to the lake would be by the St. Croix and Bois-brule; and that with the Platte can be kept up over land without the construction of roads, as the country is highly favorable in its natural state for the passage of troops.

The force to be planted at Snelling ought to consist of one regiment of infantry, and one company of artillery; thus making an aggregate force required for the protection of the frontier against Indian aggression, and for the maintenance of the neutrality of our territory on the Texan frontier, of—

	Reg'ts of Inf'y.	Tro's of Drag's.	Comp's of Art'y.
For the southern section, or Texan frontier,	1	0	1
For the middle section,	8	20	8
For the northern section,	1	0	1
	10	20	10

or 12,910 men, computing the regiment of infantry and dragoons at 1,000 each, and the artillery at 940, a small force compared with the one it is intended to restrain. This force, as before stated, may be reduced, on the return of quiet to Texas, to nine regiments of infantry, twenty troops of cavalry, and nine companies of artillery, or 11,846.

A plan of the forts to be constructed, an approximate estimate of their cost, as also that of the roads proposed as lines of communication, would be submitted but for the press of other occupations, and the want of sufficient data upon which to base these estimates.

For the proximate distances between each point and the marches, computed at fifteen miles for the least, and twenty miles for the longest, reference is made to the map, on which they are written in carmine.

Respectfully submitted by

C. GRATIOT.

To the Hon. J. R. POINSETT,

Secretary of War.

A BILL to increase the present military establishment of the United States, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That there shall be added to each company of artillery of the army of the United States, one sergeant major, in lieu of the present first sergeant, one quartermaster sergeant, two corporals, and fifty-eight privates; and to each company of infantry, one sergeant major, in lieu of the present first sergeant, one quartermaster sergeant, one sergeant, two corporals, and fifty-eight privates; and to each company of dragoons, one sergeant major, in lieu of the present first sergeant, one quartermaster sergeant, and one saddler, which saddler, in addition to his clothing and subsistence, shall be allowed twenty dollars per month; and there shall be added two principal musicians to each regiment of artillery. And the force authorized by this act to be added to the present military establishment, and the officers herein authorized to be appointed, shall be subject to the laws and regulations which now govern, or may hereafter govern, the military establishment of the United States.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That the President of the United States be, and he is hereby authorized to add to the corps of engineers, whenever he may deem it expedient to increase the same, one lieutenant colonel, two majors, six captains, six first and six second lieutenants; and that the pay and emoluments of the said corps shall be the same as those allowed to the officers of the regiments of dragoons, provided that no officer of the said corps shall be employed in any service for any State or company, for which he shall receive any compensation, except his pay from the United States.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That so much of the act passed the twenty-ninth day of April, one thousand eight hundred and twelve, entitled "an act making further provision for the corps of engineers," as provides that one paymaster shall be taken from the subalterns of the corps of engineers, be, and the same is hereby, repealed; and that the paymaster, so authorized and provided, be attached to the pay department, and be, in every respect, placed on the footing of other paymasters of the army.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That the corps of topographical engineers shall be organized and increased, by regular promotions in the same, so that the said corps shall consist of one colonel, one lieutenant colonel, four majors, ten captains, ten first lieutenants, and ten second lieutenants.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That vacancies created by said organization, over and above those which can be filled by the present corps, shall be taken from the army, and from such as it may be deemed advisable of the civil engineers employed under the act of the thirtieth of April, eighteen hundred and twenty-four; that the pay and emoluments to the officers of said corps shall be the same as are allowed to officers of similar rank in the regiments of dragoons.

SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That the authority to employ civil engineers, in the act of the thirtieth of April, eighteen hundred and twenty-four, be, and the same is hereby, repealed, after the passage of this act.

SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted*, That the President of the United States shall be, and he is hereby, authorized to appoint so many assistant adjutants general, not exceeding four, with the brevet rank, pay, and emolument of a major, and not exceeding four, with the brevet rank, pay, and emoluments of a captain of cavalry, as he may deem necessary; and that they shall be taken from the line of the army, and, in addition to their own, shall perform the duties of assistant inspectors general, when the circumstances of service may require.

SEC. 8. *And be it further enacted*, That the officers to be taken from the line and transferred to the staff, under the last preceding section, shall receive only the pay and emoluments attached to their rank in the staff; but their transfer shall be without prejudice to their rank and promotion in the line, according to their said rank and seniority; which promotion shall take place according to usage, in the same manner as if they had not been thus transferred.

SEC. 9. *And be it further enacted*, That the President of the United States be, and he is hereby, authorized, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to add to the quartermaster's department not exceeding two assistant quartermasters general, with the rank of colonel, two deputy quartermasters general, with the rank of lieutenant colonel, and eight assistant quartermasters, with the rank of captain; that the assistant quartermasters now in the service shall have the same rank as is provided by this act for those hereby authorized; and that the pay and emoluments of the officers of the quartermaster's department shall be the same as are allowed to officers of similar rank in the regiments of dragoons: *Provided*, That all appointments in the quartermaster's department shall be made from the army, and when officers taken for such appointments hold rank in the line, they shall thereupon relinquish said rank, and be separated from the line of the army; and that promotion in said department shall take place as in regiments and corps.

SEC. 10. *And be it further enacted*, That the quartermaster general be, and he is hereby authorized, from time to time, to employ as many forage-masters and wagon-masters as he may deem necessary for the service, not exceeding twenty in the whole, who shall be entitled to receive each forty dollars per month, and three rations per day, and forage for one horse; and neither of whom shall be interested or concerned, directly or indirectly, in any wagon or other means of transport employed by the United States, nor in the purchase or sale of any property procured for or belonging to the United States, except as an agent for the United States.

SEC. 11. *And be it further enacted*, That there be added to the commissariat of subsistence one assistant commissary general of subsistence, with the rank, pay, and emoluments of a lieutenant colonel of cavalry; one commissary of subsistence, with the rank, pay and emoluments of a quartermaster of the army; and three com-

missaries of subsistence, with the rank, pay and emoluments of assistant quartermasters.

SEC. 12. *And be it further enacted*, That the stewards of hospitals at posts of more than four companies be hereafter allowed the pay, clothing, and rations of a sergeant of ordnance; and, at all other posts, the pay, clothing and rations of the first sergeant of a company of infantry.

SEC. 13. *And be it further enacted*, That the President of the United States be, and he is hereby, authorized to add to the ordnance department, whenever he may deem it expedient to increase the same, by and with the advice of the Senate, two majors, ten first lieutenants, and ten second lieutenants, and that the pay and emoluments of the officers of the said department shall be the same as those allowed to the officers of the regiments of dragoons.

SEC. 14. *And be it further enacted*, That so much of the fourth section of the act passed fifth April, eighteen hundred and thirty-two, for the organization of the ordnance department, as authorizes the officers of ordnance to receive the same pay and emoluments now allowed artillery officers, shall be construed to include the ten dollars per month additional pay to every officer in the actual command of a company, as compensation for the duties and responsibilities with respect to clothing, arms, and accoutrements of the company, under the authority of the second section of the act passed second March, eighteen hundred and twenty-seven, giving further compensation to the captains and subalterns of the army of the United States in certain cases: *Provided*, That the officers of the ordnance department claiming the compensation for such duties and responsibilities, shall have been actually in the command of enlisted men of the ordnance, and thereby incurred the aforesaid responsibility.

SEC. 15. *And be it further enacted*, That from and after the passage of this act, the army ration, when not received in kind, shall be estimated at twenty-five cents per ration; and that every commissioned officer of the line, or staff, shall be entitled to receive one additional ration per diem for every five years that he may have served or shall serve in the army of the United States; and the paymaster general, surgeon general, and commissary general of purchases, shall each be allowed six rations per diem, and the additional ration allowed in this section.

SEC. 16. *And be it further enacted*, That from and after the passing of this act, the monthly pay of the non-commissioned officers, musicians, and privates of the army of the United States, shall be same with that established for the monthly pay of the non-commissioned officers, musicians, and privates of the marine corps, by the first section of the act entitled "An act to improve the condition of the non-commissioned officers and privates of the army and marine corps of the United States, and to prevent desertion," approved March second, eighteen hundred and thirty-three.

SEC. 17. *And be it further enacted*, That the fifth section of the aforesaid last mentioned act shall be, and the same hereby is, repealed; and that the premium to officers for enlisting recruits, and the bounty to recruits, shall hereafter be the same as before the passage of that act; but the payment of one half of the bounty shall be deferred until the recruit shall have joined the corps in which he is to serve.

SEC. 18. *And be it further enacted*, That the allowance of sugar and coffee to the non-commissioned officers, musicians, and privates, in lieu of the spirit or whiskey component part of the army ration, now directed by regulation, shall be fixed at six pounds of coffee and twelve pounds of sugar to every one hundred rations; to be issued weekly, when it can be done with convenience to the public service, and when not so issued, to be paid for in money.

SEC. 19. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall be lawful for the officers composing the council of administration at any post, from time to time, to employ such person as they may think proper, to officiate as chaplain at such post; and the person so employed shall, on the certificate of the commanding officer of the post, be paid such sum for his services, not exceeding forty dollars per month, as may be determined by the said council of administration, with the approval of the Secretary of War; and, in addition to his pay, the said chaplain shall be allowed four rations per diem, with quarters and fuel.

SEC. 20. *And be it further enacted*, That the chaplain

at the Military Academy shall hereafter be relieved of the duties of the professorship connected with his office by the act of April fourteenth, eighteen hundred and eighteen; and that, for the performance of such duties, an additional professor be appointed, with the pay and emoluments now allowed to the professor of mathematics; and, also, that an additional professor be appointed to instruct in the studies of chemistry, mineralogy, and geology, with the like pay and emoluments.

SEC. 21. *And be it further enacted*, That, whenever suitable non-commissioned officers or privates cannot be procured from the line of the army to serve as paymaster's clerks, paymasters be, and hereby are, authorized and empowered to employ citizens to perform that duty, at salaries not to exceed five hundred dollars per annum, each.

SEC. 22. *And be it further enacted*, That all letters and packages on public business, to and from the commanding general, the chief engineer, the colonel of ordnance, the surgeon general, and the head of the topographical corps, shall be free from postage.

SEC. 23. *And be it further enacted*, That the President shall be, and he is hereby, authorized, whenever he may deem the same expedient, to cause not exceeding two regiments of infantry to be armed and equipped, and to serve as a regiment of riflemen, and one other of the regiments of infantry to be armed and equipped and to serve as a regiment of light infantry.

SEC. 24. *And be it further enacted*, That all acts and parts of acts inconsistent with the provisions of this act, shall be, and the same are hereby repealed.

MISCELLANY.

From the Globe.

CRUISE OF THE U. S. FRIGATE CONSTITUTION.—By a letter from Marseilles, we learn that the frigate United States, Captain WILKINSON, reached there on the 18th of November, having on board General CASS, Minister to France, his family, and suite. They arrived at Mahon about the 25th of October, in the Constitution, and performed their quarantine at that place. They then embarked on board the United States, and arrived at Marseilles in that vessel.

We understand, from our correspondent, that the cruise of the Constitution has been a most interesting one, and that few vessels have ever passed along a greater line of coast in the same time. She left Marseilles the beginning of May, and sailed from there to Genoa, where she touched; thence to Leghorn, where the party landed, and proceeded through Pisa, Florence, and Sienna, to Rome, examining whatever was remarkable in that most interesting region. In the latter city they were presented to the Pope, whose mild and unassuming manners made a very favorable impression upon all the party. From Rome, they travelled through the Campagna, the seat of malaria and of death, to Civita Vecchia, and there re-embarked on board the Constitution. They then sailed to Palermo, passing in sight of the Lipari Islands, and, after remaining three days at the former place, they sailed round the western end of Sicily, coasting the island, and having a fine view of the ancient city of Agrigentum, now Girgenti, and of its celebrated ruins, and reached Malta. From thence they sailed for Greece, and passed for some days along its shores to Athens, where they landed. Here they were gratified with excursions in all directions round the city, particularly to the bay of Salamis, and with a presentation to the young king and queen. From thence some of the party performed a journey through Eleusis, across the mountains which separated Attica from Bœotia, to the great plain of Thebes, reaching to the foot of the mountains at the city of Platea, memorable for the defeat of the Persians. Extensive remains of this city yet exist, which were explored, as well as the site of this great battle, yet easily identified by the little river Asopus, and by the tumulus in

which the dead were buried. From thence they went to Leuctriæ, and thence to the ancient city of Thebes. Then through the very heart of the country by the city of Haliartus, the fountain of Lethe, and the field of Cheronæa to Delphi, and thence to the Gulf of Corinth, and down it to the isthmus and the city, and also to the city of Sicyon. On the other side of the isthmus they again found the vessel, and sailed to Cape Colonna and Marathon, where they landed.

From here they proceeded to the island of Tenedos, and landed on the plain of Troy, where they spent the 4th of July. They then sailed up the Dardanelles into the sea of Marmora, and to Constantinople, and then up the Bosphorus to the Black sea. The plague was so prevalent here that their time and excursions were very much limited. Hence they proceeded to Scio, and then passing the Grecian Archipelago, touching at Delos, they reached Syra, and then went to Candia. Thence to Jaffa, the ancient Joppa, where they landed, and went on to Jerusalem. From this point they made several excursions to Bethlehem, the Mount of Olives, the tombs of the kings and of the judges, to Jericho, the Jordan, and the Dead Sea, and other places; and after a most interesting residence of several days, they departed, and travelled by Rama, Berri, Nablous, (the ancient Samaria,) the plain of Esdracelon, and Mount Hermon, to Nazareth. Hence by Cana, passing near the foot of Mount Tabor, and near the scene of the miracle of the loaves and fishes, they arrived at the city of Tiberias, on the lake of Galilee. From here, along the lake shore, by the fountain of Bethsaida, and the site of the ancient Capernaum, and leaving to their left the old city of Saffad, to the Jordan, which they crossed at Jacob's bridge. They found this whole region had suffered exceedingly from an earthquake the preceding winter, Tiberias and Saffad having been utterly destroyed. They continued along the highlands, and passed immense numbers of Arabs, encamped in the patriarchal style, with their families and flocks. They estimated that they saw, almost at one view, 5,000 camels. They arrived at Damascus, and then crossed the ridge of ancient Lebanon to Balbec, and the range of Lebanon to the Cedars, supposed by many to be the remains of the forest from which the timber for Solomon's Temple was taken. From here they went to Tripoli, in Syria, and re-embarked and sailed for Beirut. Then they passed along the coast in a boat, for the greater convenience of landing, and sailed to Sidon. From there they made an excursion into the ridges of Lebanon, to visit Lady Hester Stanhope and the emir prince of the Druses. They were received with great kindness by Lady Hester, and found that their character as Americans was a passport to her attention. They continued on to the country of the Druses, and were very hospitably entertained, but found that the emir was unfortunately absent. They then returned, and sailed to the Tyre, and then to St. Jean d'Arc and Caïphas. Here they ascended Mount Carmel, and then, taking horses, they proceeded along the coast, through the magnificent ruins of Cæsarea, to Jaffa, where they again found the ship. Then they sailed to Egypt, landed at Alexandria, were presented to Mehemet Ali, passed along the canal, entered the Nile, (then at its height,) and reached Cairo. Here they had an interview with Ibrahim Pacha, examined the city, and visited the site of Heliopolis, or On. They then went up to the pyramids of Saccara, and then to the great pyramids of Ghizeh. After this they returned to Alexandria, and sailed for Cyprus, made an excursion into the interior of the island, and sailed to Mahon.

Our correspondent informs us that the whole journey was performed without any unfortunate accident.

From the Charleston Courier of Jan. 17.

Soon after the cession of Florida, in 1819, to the United States, the influx of American citizens being very great and sudden, the Seminoles saw immediately the necessity of some security to their rights from the new people with whom they had become associated, and with the view of obtaining this, as early as 1823, they subscribed to a treaty. The most important conditions of this treaty were, that the Seminole possessions in Florida should be bounded by well defined limits, within which they should immediately move, and that neither party should cross them without permission from the other; and in order to maintain a due observance of this on our part, Fort King was established, with an Agent, and a company of United States troops.

The treaty, (called the treaty of Moultrie Creek) thus concluded and ratified, was maintained by the Seminoles with the greatest integrity. Did an Indian pass his bounds without leave, he was pursued by Indians, brought to the Agency, and there, before the eyes of our Agent, whipped by Indian hands. Ocoola appears to have devoted his life to it, and his zeal in its support increased, as the machinations of those who would deprive him of his country, became more obvious. Such was his infallibility in detecting and bringing transgressors to justice, that he received the appellation of The Sheriff.

On one occasion, a theft having been committed upon our Agent, he entered a complaint to the Chiefs, and, in consequence, they called a Council. The late John Hicks, then the greatest man in the nation, presided. During the session, one of his sons came forward and acknowledged himself guilty of the crime. He was adjudged to receive twelve stripes from each of ten of his compeers, and the sentence was immediately carried into execution, in the presence of his father. The youngster fell senseless under its infliction.

But this state of things, although a happy one for both parties, was not of long continuance. When Gen. JACKSON entered the Presidency, he proceeded to follow the recommendation which he had made when Governor of Florida—to remove the Indians to the West of the Mississippi. A man in this Territory, a great friend of his, (one of great ambition, who has engaged in several great undertakings, and has most strangely failed in every one,) either to please him, or instigated by him, drew up a treaty, called the Treaty at Payne's Landing, by which the Seminoles were to give their possessions in Florida for an equivalent in Western lands, and by dint of bribery and cajoling, succeeded in obtaining to it the signatures of several of the most important Chiefs. Thus subscribed to, it was sent to the Senate for their ratification, but its manifest lameness was such, that they refused it. The removal of the Seminoles, however, was too agreeable to Government policy to be neglected, even when thus inchoated, and therefore they requested the Seminoles to send a delegation to examine the Western lands, and if then they adhered to the treaty, it should be ratified. Accordingly the delegation was sent, at the expense of Government; they examined the lands, and could well do no less than express themselves pleased with them. Advantage was taken of this, while they were yet there, to again present them the treaty, and without the necessary power they again signed it. Thus signed, it was sent to Washington, and in due time received ratification, and in the mean time the Chiefs returned to their country, and made their report.

Thus far, the Seminoles, as a nation, do not appear to have given the subject of removal a moment's consideration; but when their delegation returned with the report, that the lands they were sent to survey had no dry pines with which in their own country they could at all times so easily light a fire to cook, or dry or warm them when wet or cold; that the climate was comparatively a rigorous one, the land for a part

of the year being covered with snow; that it was surrounded by ferocious and warlike tribes, and that to be reached a long sea voyage must be made, (a mode of travelling which they very much dislike,)—and when they concluded by saying that they had already signed a treaty by which they were bound to emigrate, the excitement became great and general; council after council was called, the subject was discussed in all its bearings, and they finally resolved of course upon maintaining possession of their country. Our Agent called the Chiefs together, urged them to comply with the terms of the treaty; he remonstrated and threatened. OCOOLA having dared to express himself freely, was put in irons; Chiefs were deposed and others appointed in their stead, but all to no purpose; they were immediately resolved.

There was, however, one exception. A Chief (one of the delegation) who inhabited the region around the head of Tampa Bay, came in with his tribe, consisting of between four and five hundred souls. Before embarking, he was to await the final determination of Government, which he fondly hoped would ultimately allow him to remain. In course of time intelligence arrived. He was lying in the tent of the commanding officer, sick from deferred hope, and when the packet was brought in, and the commandant, seated at his table, commenced its perusal, he arose, and peering over his shoulder, inquired in English, which he had never been heard to use before, "What news Major—what news from Washington?" They were that he was to be shipped immediately for the West. Sadly he conducted his tribe on board the vessel which was to convey them away; night fell upon the scene, and the occasion was rendered doubly dismal by the dogs, who ran about wildly howling for their masters. Before the vessel left the bay, that night, several leaped into the water and regained the shore.

Our Agent, finding them determined not to go, recommended Government to send a sufficient number of troops to force them. The troops arrived, and the Indians resorted to arms, referring to the Great Spirit for a decision of their cause. Not ignorant of our power, they dared to brave it. Unlike other Indian tribes, awed by it into submissive compliance with our wishes—they have maintained for two years, a war which has exposed our great injustice to the world. It would seem that the Great Spirit had designed this unexpected protraction, in order that we ourselves might be fully sensible of the great crime that we are committing and hastening to consummate.

At length, after much suffering, they have been driven into the swamps and unwholesome places of their country, and they are now clinging with the last efforts of despair to their beloved homes. Can any Christian in this Republic know this and still pray for the continuance of blessings—when he is about to wrest from the unhappy Seminole all that the Great Spirit ever conferred upon him? Can a people who boast the freest institutions, so far forget themselves as to assume the blackest attributes of tyranny, and though convicted of their error, still persist in exercising them with inclemency? All this can be done, but not with impunity. An equilibrium will ever be maintained in the moral world as well as in the physical—retribution will inevitably follow dereliction. Like the Southern winds of a summer's day, conjoining thunderous clouds in the North, we have been crowding and condensing disaffected Indian tribes between the Mississippi and the Rocky Mountains, and as by an electric spark, these clouds turn and rush forth, lavishing their fury upon the earth, so may a foreign enemy, or one among themselves, arouse these tribes to come down upon us in such numbers as shall desolate a large portion of our now happy country. To the more remote, this may seem chimerical, but to those acquainted with the intelligence of the Creeks, the Cherokees, and the Seminoles, and the advance-

ment of civilization among them, it appears far more than possible.

Judging from the papers, one would infer that this war had become generally obnoxious. If this be the case, if the people wish to crush it, they have only to instruct their representatives not to make the necessary appropriation; but if they be not sincere, their crime becomes villainous from the addition of an unnecessary hypocrisy.

AN OFFICER OF 4TH ARTILLERY.
CAMP ST. JOHN'S, Dec. 29, 1837.

THE RAFT IN RED RIVER.—We took notice, on Tuesday, of the official report of Captain Shreve's operations for the removal of this remarkable obstruction in the channel of Red river. In the St. Louis Bulletin, received yesterday, we find an article on the subject, which we think will be read with interest, and therefore subjoin it:—*Baltimore Amer.*

The obstruction originally occupied a space of upwards of two hundred miles; and there is sufficient evidence that it has existed for ages before the discovery of the country, while its banks exhibit indubitable proof that it once extended to within fifty miles of the confluence of that river with the Mississippi. The annual increasement has been estimated at two miles; and once formed, the serpentine course of the stream forbids all possibility of removal, except by artificial measures, or the slow process of decay. In some places, the raft is condensed to an astonishing depth, and forms what is called the "sunken raft;" a single strong log removed will sometimes liberate hundreds. The raft region may now be considered under three divisions; that from which the raft is entirely removed, extending 146 miles from the commencement; that in which the raft is cut up and pulled in pieces, and not floated off—for which nothing is wanted but a strong current, which must immediately take place—33 miles in extent; and that, lastly, which has not yet been commenced. The water expelled from the channel by the raft into the lakes, parallel to the banks, as the obstruction is removed, turns and deepens the bed of the stream. At the commencement of the raft there is little or no current. This has added much to the labor in removing the obstruction; and many of the logs removed have floated back subsequently by a rise in the Mississippi. The removal now of a few yards of solid raft, causes a fall of eighteen inches above it, and a rise of six feet below. There remains only about four miles of the raft to be removed, and, when the channel is once clear, the current will be powerful and deep, and the banks on either side will be lofty and firm. Capt Shreve declares that all can be accomplished in *three months* after a suitable appropriation from Congress is made.

The magnitude of this undertaking, and the results which must ensue from its accomplishment, cannot be too highly appreciated. The river is navigable for more than 2,000 miles above the raft, and through a region unrivalled in fertility. Though now thinly settled, it is rapidly populating—hundreds await the removal of the raft as a signal for entering the country, and all its vast resources and natural wealth must soon be developed. The result of this undertaking, once involved in doubt, as well as the permanent advantages which would ensue, are no longer problematical. The indefatigable industry, the untiring enterprise, the indomitable perseverance, and the enlarged and scientific designs of Capt. HENRY M. SHREVE, the projector and accomplisher of this noble national work, can never be estimated beyond their merits. His history is identified with that of the empire west; and his fame will endure so long as the magnificent streams with which his name is associated, shall continue to roll on their volumed waters to the deep.

WASHINGTON CITY;

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 1838.

In the Senate yesterday, the bill reported some time previously by Mr. BENTON, from the Committee on Military Affairs, for increasing the army, having undergone an amendment providing for the Commissary's department which had been accidentally omitted, was ordered to a third reading. The bill itself will be found in another column, and it is hoped that it may receive the early action of the House. The effect of the bill, if passed, will be to equalize the grades in the several staff departments, so that promotions may be made in regular gradation as vacancies occur. In the Quartermaster's department, for instance, there is now no intermediate grade between a Brigadier General and a Major, so that if a vacancy were to take place in the office of Quartermaster General, the senior officer in that department would either be promoted three grades at once, or cut off from all hope by the selection in another from a different corps. The bill provides for two Colonels and two Lieutenant Colonels, to the Quartermaster's department, and a corresponding increase in other branches.

We have, in the annexed extract, another argument in favor of a standing army, at least large enough to preserve our fortifications from decay, and our frontiers from depredations. It is morally impossible that discipline can be enforced among men who know that they have but a very short time to serve, and who appear to feel as if they were conferring a benefit on the whole nation, by volunteering to defend one portion of its territory.

It is unquestionably best to rely mainly on our militia for local defence; but to render it efficient and useful, it must be placed on a better footing than it now is.

We take no pleasure in publishing such statements as the following. We must be sensible that the actors in the scene here depicted are our own countrymen, and any discredit reflected upon them, must be participated in by the people at large.

It has been repeatedly asserted, and we believe can be incontrovertibly maintained, that volunteer troops are twice as expensive, and not half so efficient as regular troops. Surely then we should keep such a standing force as will preserve military knowledge among us.

The recent disturbances on our Mexican and Canadian borders, and the war now raging in Florida, without anticipating the difficulties that may arise on our extensive Indian frontier, conclusively prove that our army should be double its present numerical strength.

ST. AUGUSTINE, JAN. 1.—"Save us from our Friends."—On Monday last, a large body of men, calling themselves Alabama Volunteers, arrived in the vicinity of this city from Picolata. The arrival of troops from any quarter to assist in conquering a savage foe, we have hitherto looked upon with gratification; but we greet the arrival of this body of men with any thing else than pleasurable feelings. It is

reported that their conduct during their march from Tallahassee to this city has been a series of excesses of every description. They have committed almost every crime except murder, and have even threatened life, from wantonness, if from no worse principle.

After forming their camp on the west side of St. Sebastian river, large numbers of them came into town, paraded our streets, grossly insulted our females, and were otherwise extremely riotous in their conduct. Shortly after sunset they commenced returning to their camp, highly excited with liquor, in large squads. One of these squads, 40 or 50 in number, on reaching the bridge, where there was a small guard of three or four men stationed, assaulted the guard, overturned the sentry box into the river, and bodily seized two of the guard, and threw them into the river, where the water was deep, and they were forced to swim for their lives. The guard having no orders to interfere with any white man coming to and from, were unprepared for such an attack, and especially when there was not the least provocation given. At one of the men, while in the water, they pointed a musket, threatening to kill him; and pelted him with every missile which came to hand, until some one of them from shame, or some better principle, interfered in his behalf, and called him out of the water, and they suffered him to come to town, ignorant of the fate of his comrade.

The other remained in the water, concealed in the marsh for about half an hour, suffering much from cold. He states, that just previous to their assault, they proposed going over to the residence of Judge Reid, who resides near the bridge on the west side of the river, and has no doubt that serious consequences would have ensued, had they not first interfered with the guard.

Such conduct is deserving of condign punishment, but from the difficulty of ascertaining and identifying the perpetrators, they have not been brought to justice; but representations have been made to Gen. Jesup, of their conduct, and if he has the power, we have no doubt he will, so far as he is able, use such measures as will teach them that they are yet under authority, and the rights of our citizens are not to be outraged with impunity.—*Herald*.

We have before had occasion to remark that intelligence of what takes place almost under our very noses oftentimes first reaches us from a distance. We shall not attempt to explain the causes of this seeming anomaly; "there needs no ghost come from the grave" to tell us why it is so.

The Washington correspondent of the New York Courier and Enquirer, who is believed to have access to authentic sources of information, thus speaks of the present condition of the Exploring Expedition.

Whether it will ever leave our shores becomes daily a matter of more doubt.

"Until yesterday, I supposed that the question in relation to the Exploring Expedition, was, in a great measure, settled, but it seems that all is again in the wind. I will give you a bird's-eye view of the affair as it now stands, and the movements that preceded that of Thursday, the 18th. Having done this, I am inclined to promise that I will never write another line respecting it.

"On the 18th Dec. 1837, Commodores Hull and Biddle, and Capt. Aulick, in pursuance of orders from the Navy Department, attended in this city, and formed a board to inquire into and report on the subject of this expedition.

"On the 25th of December they reported, as their opinion, that suitable vessels to form such a squadron would be a sloop of war with about one hundred and thirty men; two brigs of 300 to 350 tons each, manned with 55 or 60 men, and one ship of 450 tons.

"On the 3d of January, 1838, Capt. Kearny was appointed to the command of the squadron, instructed to report himself to Commodore Ridgely for that service, and to make such representations to the Navy Department, in relation to the matter, as he deemed necessary. He repaired to Washington, and finding that a frigate was not to be attached to the squadron, he urged the necessity of a large merchant ship in lieu of one of the brigs, recommended by the board of which Commodore Hull was president. Not only was this refused, but the force of the squadron was reduced even below that suggested by the board.

"On the 17th instant it seemed to be definitely settled, that the squadron should consist of a sloop of war, the store ship Relief, one of the brigs, and the schooner Active. In the opinion of Captain Kearny, and those officers with whom he consulted, it was impossible to carry out the proposed scientific corps, with all their baggage, unless in addition to one of the brigs, he was allowed a large merchant ship; besides, the four vessels proposed to be sent were of such different properties, as to sailing, that they would inevitably separate in a heavy gale of wind.

"On the morning of the 18th, therefore, Capt. Kearny resigned his command of the squadron, which resignation, during the same day, was accepted, and now the whole matter is again in the hands of the Secretary. All the young and enterprising officers that had embarked with Capt. Kearny, will also, I presume, retire from the expedition, and every thing must be commenced *de novo*, at a moment when it was thought the squadron would be immediately fitted for sea.—Thus much for the Exploring Expedition."

ARRIVALS AT WASHINGTON.

Jan. 15—Major R. L. Baker, Ordnance, Fuller's.
18—Lieut. J. W. Penrose, 2d Inf, Gadsby's.
Major T. T. Fauntleroy, 2d Drags., Alexandria.

PASSENGERS.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 20, per steamer Teche, from Natchitoches, Capt. B. Walker, of the army.

NEW YORK, Jan. 14, per ship Francois 1st, from Havre, Lieuts. A. A. Harwood and C. G. Hunter, of the navy.

CHARLESTON, Jan. 15, per schr. Empire from St. Augustine, via Savannah, Col. Andrews and Major Fauntleroy, of the army.

SAVANNAH, Jan. 11, per steamboat Cincinnati, from Garey's Ferry, Capt d'Lagnel, of the army.

COMMUNICATION.

THE NAVY—ADMIRALS—No. 2.

In a former communication, on the subject of a higher grade than that of Captain in the navy, I advocated the measure on the ground of reward to our veteran and meritorious officers, and on that of necessity. I said, also, that a just and laudable national pride, (perhaps it would be better to say national self-respect,) requires that American naval officers should be placed on a par with those of other nations, holding equal, and frequently inferior, commands to themselves. There is not an officer, it is probable, in the navy, who has served much abroad, whose rank associated him with the higher grades in the service of other nations, that has not been more or less frequently mortified by the inferiority of rank, in the commander of our squadron to those of all other nations on the station. Even Austria, with her small navy, sends forth an officer whose rank takes precedence of the highest in our service. We may call an officer "*Commodore*," and talk about his taking rank with a Brigadier General; this does very well at home, but abroad they are what their commission styles them, *Captains*.

It should be borne in mind that our flag, and all that concerns it, attracts more attention than that of any other nation in existence. We have, as it were,

but just now started into life ; an infant nation, exhibiting the strength and proportions of a giant, and claiming place among the most ancient, powerful, and renowned. Our form of Government, too, the high reputation acquired by our arms at sea, combined with (may I say) the manly and gentleman-like deportment of our officers, give an interest to our service in the eyes of foreign nations, scarcely to be conceived at home ; and which, if conceived and properly appreciated, would cause the nation to value more highly its navy, and to be even lavish in all that would increase its efficiency and respectability. This can be done in no other way so effectually as by giving it a higher grade.

"Why have you not Admirals?" has been proposed and reiterated to every officer of the higher grades who has served on foreign stations. The answer to this oft repeated and perplexing question would, of course, be shaped in the best manner presenting itself to the mind, affording the best explanation, and, at the same time, reflecting no discredit on our country. But foreigners, having no particular predilection in favor of our form of government, notwithstanding all that can be said, find an answer to suit themselves in the parsimony of a Republic. That such an imputation is a base libel, we are all ready to exclaim ; the bare imputation is sufficient of itself to cause the cheek of every American to burn with just indignation at so foul a charge.

There have been reasons assigned at home, too, for withholding this higher grade from the navy ; some so illiberal, unjust, and ungenerous, so unworthy a great, powerful, and enlightened people, that I shall pass them by as too gross to deserve a moment's notice. What! officers grown old in honorable service ; all their best years spent in danger and toil ; their prowess exhibited in successful conflict with the enemies of the country, who are now able and willing to obey her first call ; are they to be laid aside like broken and edgeless tools? Impossible! the mere thought is an outrage on the justice of a generous nation.

I have ever been inclined to attribute this seeming neglect of the vital interests of the navy, to a want of correct information on the part of our representatives, as to the true merits of the case. The minds of many have been prejudiced, no doubt, against the measure by some, (its adversaries.) I will not here impugn their motives, although I do not think they would bear the test of sober and impartial investigation. Should the subject be presented to Congress fairly, unencumbered by other matter, standing out on the ground of its own merits, there will be but one opinion among the friends of a navy. Its consolidation, its efficiency, its ability to do what may justly be expected from so large a force, would be found to depend mainly on such a measure.

There may be discipline in single ships under the present organization, but never in squadrons. This single ship policy has its friends and advocates, who have demonstrated clearly, *on paper*, that it is very easy to scour an ocean with frigates ; and so I admit it might be, *provided* there should be no impediment to their free access to the ocean and to port. Our last war was not a fair criterion by which to form a correct judgment on this subject. It should be had in remembrance that during our struggle with Great Britain, she was engaged in war with the world, and was compelled to keep large fleets in every quarter of the globe, to protect her commerce and vast possessions. There was but a small proportion of her force to spare for the blockade of our coast ; consequently, our ships at the commencement of that war passed out and in, and gave proof, in every rencontre with the ships of our enemy, that, with equal force, Americans had nothing to apprehend. But, should we be engaged single handed, with either of the great maritime powers, (and it is probable we may be,) all their disposable force would be

directed against us, and their first and great object would be to shut up our ports. In such a case, what would a navy, composed of frigates and sloops, avail? Our ports would be blockaded, our towns sacked or laid under contribution at the pleasure of the enemy.

But, in answer, it is said, our coast is difficult to blockade. I affirm that it is not ; it may be effected with more ease and certainty than that of any other known. Our shores are not rocky, iron-bound, or "steep to," as are the shores of Europe, but afford good anchorage along their border. The spacious bays by which our coast is indented, afford secure shelter at all seasons ; the off-shore winds with which alone ships could get to sea, make smooth water under the land, favorable either to ride at anchor or keep under sail. The regularity of the soundings, too, serves to inform them of their position as well by night as by day. Besides, it is only during the winter season we can hope for the strong westerly gales, suitable for a run by a blockading squadron. During a period of eight months of the year, our ports might be effectually sealed against frigates. Call to mind the length of time the President was shut up at New York, and her melancholy fate, in consequence of having made a push on a dark night. Remember the frigates United States and Macedonian, and sloop Hornet, at New London. Frigates could do nothing without a sufficient force of line of battle ships to keep open their way to the ocean.

As for steam, it will not do at sea, contending with ships of the line ; it will not break up a blockade. A force, equal to the attempt, would cost more than the canvass propelled ships with which we are acquainted. We are apt, I think, in our single ship calculations, to forget we may have an enemy to contend with as vigilant, as enterprising, and not a whit behind ourselves in seamanship ; many of them grown old in blockade. We should not under ate those to whom we may be opposed, but rather make use of every exertion to perfect ourselves in all that relates to the profession. I myself have seen men of war riding through the long heavy gales of the north sea, in dead of winter, with a patience, perseverance, and safety, truly astonishing.

Besides, this mode of warfare does not comport with the dignity of the nation. We have abundance of material for ship building, skilful hands to construct, talents to direct, and bold hearts to use them. Shall a nation, possessing such resources, proud of her honor, and unincumbered with debt, be satisfied to wage such a petty warfare? Certainly not. It would better become us to be ready to meet an enemy in line, or singly. To attack or repel, we must acquaint ourselves with what relates to manœuvre, so far as to be prepared at all points, and under all circumstances, to meet any other nation at sea. Moreover, we have already a formidable navy, (so far as relates to number and size ;) but, I would ask, are we ready *now* to act in line of battle? Surely it would be unjust to impose a command so large, involving such heavy responsibilities, on a *Captain*.

But it may be asked, will the commission of an Admiral confer an increase of intelligence, judgment, or ability to command? I answer, no, by no means ; but it would enable the officer to exercise what he did possess, without being thwarted or opposed by those of very inferior ability, but who might fancy themselves very superior.

If man was a perfect being, I grant all would be easy ; then one grade would be all sufficient. But as, unfortunately, he is not, legislation must be adapted to suit him as he is ; guards and checks are necessary to restrain unruly passions, and he that is to rule, and is alone responsible, must be armed with unquestionable power, equal to every emergency which may present itself.

The navy also requires a *system* by which it should be governed under all circumstances ; a system embracing as much, and leaving as little to the

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discretion of individuals, as human foresight, directed by experience, could prevent. This would give to us unity of action, and, consequently, strength. The navy exhibited, during the last war, on every occasion, skill in gunnery, manœuvring single ships, and small squadrons; and what is of vital importance, either singly or in fleets, perfection of discipline. But a larger field now opens to our view; fleets are to be manœuvred and fought. The sooner we prepare for enlarged action, the better we shall be prepared. All other nations are in a state of active preparation for naval warfare. Are we putting forth all our exertions? The subject is one of vast national importance, and demands immediate attention, *if the navy is to be what it ought to be*; and what, by *timely and wise legislation, it may be*—the strong arm of our power, a bulwark to the country, its shield and spear. C.

DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE.

BY THE SOUTHERN EXPRESS MAIL. SEMINOLE WAR.

From the St. Augustine Herald, Jan. 15.

We have nothing new from the army this week. The following extract of a letter from a gentleman at Tampa gives some further particulars of Col. Taylor's affair on the 25th ult.

TAMPA BAY, Jan. 3, 1838.—Major Graham has just left our cabin. The Major was in the battle fought by Colonel Taylor's command, with Alligator and Coacoochee, and their braves. He says it was a hard fought action; 110 wounded, and 28 or 29 killed; among the latter, Col. Thompson, Lieut. Center, Capt. Van Swearingen, Col. Gentry, (Missouri,) and, among the former a Lieut. Walker, (from Augusta,) and Lieut. [Capt.] Andrews, but neither dangerously.

The Indians were prepared on the edge of a lake, and the whites had to pass through a wide boggy swamp to reach them; there were about 300 regulars in the battle, and the Missouri Volunteers. The Indians shot from the high grass, and from trees which they had ascended. It was expected Jesus would have joined Taylor; he was, at last advices, 30 miles in advance of Fort Mellon. Col. Nelson has had some skirmishing.

This is all the Indian news we have been able to gather, except that Jumper and Holacoochee, and 140 Indians (60 captured) will be here to-morrow, and will be immediately transported.

The Major thinks Taylor's command can't get out again under 10 or 15 days; they want horses.

The Philadelphia National Gazette contains the following letter from an officer of the Sixth Regiment United States Infantry, giving some mournful particulars of the late disastrous engagement in Florida.

FORT GARDINER, ON THE KISSIMEE,
December 30, 1837.

On the 21st inst. we struck our tents and took up the line of march down the Kissimmee, on the west side, a little east of south; we struck that river again in a distance of about 53 miles, and commenced a stockade, &c. with the view of establishing a depot. Hearing that Sam Jones, with the Micasukies, were not far off, we left a small command to go on with the works, and went in search of him. After a journey of about thirty miles we found him on Okee Cochee Lake, on the 25th inst. A cypress swamp fronted by a slough almost impassable, but it was necessary to cross it to reach him. This slough was almost half a mile wide, and, in going through it, we were frequently in the mud to our waists.

A disposition for battle was soon made; I being on the reserve, and the troops marched forward, and

when they were within about eighty or a hundred yards of the Cypress Swamp, the Indians commenced a most furious attack; the troops, however, continued their march, and until the slough was passed our loss was considerable; the fire was most fierce for about an hour, the Indians three times returning to the attack; on being driven the third time by Col. Foster, they gave way, leaving their dead, or rather a part of them, on the ground. So far as we could judge, they moved off up and down the lake as fast as they could, abandoning much of their plunder; nothing was heard of them the night and day following; from the howling of their dogs in the swamp, up to the time of our departure, it would seem they did not return to their camp during our stay.

We remained to the second day after the battle, preparing litters for the wounded, burying the dead, and ranging the country round about. We collected upwards of 300 cattle, and 90 or a hundred ponies, which we brought away with us; these things, however, cost us some of our bravest officers and soldiers, [here follows a list of officers killed and wounded, already published] 27 killed and 110 wounded. Some say 8, some 10 Indians were found dead on the field: it may be presumed that some they carried off, after their custom; we have but little doubt their loss was fully as great as ours, in proportion to numbers.

We had in the battle upwards of 600 men; the Indian force, of course, is not known; it is variously estimated from 2 to 500; the smallest number I think nearest to fact. The affair took place somewhat earlier than they expected, for they had been amusing us with the promise that they would come in, but after being pressed they were rather slow; some did come, and no doubt others would have followed of the Seminoles, but the Micasukies had positively declined. The Indians say about thirty Seminoles were in the fight; the number, I expect, was much greater. We have in our possession about 130 Indians and negroes, principally women and children, and old men, six of the number prisoners.

My conclusions are, that we have distressed the enemy so much that it will hasten the war to an end. Florida certainly is the poorest country that ever two people contended for; the United States and the Indians will get a shell each, while the vagabonds hanging on its skirts will eat the oyster. The battle, I omitted to say, was fought on the 25th December.

AUTHENTIC FROM FLORIDA.

Extract of a letter received in Washington city from an Officer of the Army, dated

"FORT GARDNER, Dec. 31, 1837.

"The 1st brigade, under the command of Colonel TAYLOR, reached this a few hours since, from Lake Okee-cho-bee, where it encountered the Indians, and, after a severe and bloody battle, which lasted several hours, the Indians were driven in every direction, leaving 10 dead on the ground, and no doubt they bore off many others that were killed. Their position was the strongest, as we had to pass three-quarters of a mile up to our knees in mud and water to reach them in a cypress thicket. Our loss was severe, as we had 27 killed and 110 wounded. Killed, Lieutenant Colonel THOMPSON, Captain SWEARINGEN, and Lieutenants BROOK and CENTER, of the regular army, and Colonel GENTRY, of the Missouri volunteers, and many officers wounded, but I hope not dangerously. We captured some 200 or 300 cattle, and 90 or 100 horses from the Indians the day after the battle."

A letter from Tampa Bay, gives us a detailed account of the loss of the ship Charles Wharton, from Philadelphia, having on board 270 volunteers under the command of Surgeon General Lawson. She got

on the north shoal off the east entrance of Tampa Bay. The cutter Jackson at the time was five miles distant, and seeing signals of distress on the ship, Capt. Gatewood despatched a boat with six men under Lt. Feters to her assistance. The ship was fast aground—and as the weather was threatening, it was determined to remove troops and crew. This was effected, saving also their baggage and accoutrements. A fine hospital received them at Mullet Key. On the next day they started for Fort Brooke.

The ship Eliza has arrived at New Orleans from Tampa Bay, with 131 Seminole Indians and negroes, captured by the troops in Florida. A report was current at Tampa Bay, that Fort Clinch had been attacked by the Indians, but nothing positive had transpired in relation to the action.

INDIAN AFFAIRS.

INDIANS.—We learn that a party of Sac and Fox Indians, from the Missouri River, who have been dancing at the Museum within a few days past, left here for the east under the charge of some white man, who is to superintend their exhibitions. Finding their dancing profitable, they have concluded to turn it to account.

Their imaginations have probably been fired by the accounts they must have received from some late delegations last fall, who were feasted and talked to, and paraded, and presented with gewgaws to their hearts' content.

Public objects may make it necessary, at times, to invite Indian deputations to the Capital, when proper arrangements are made for their transportation and safe conduct, by some authorized agent, but it is much to be regretted, that any white man should allow his cupidity to profit by the superintending a vagabond party of strolling Indians. Should these be encouraged in their vagrant wanderings, others will follow, until the whole tribe is found dancing through the country.—*St. Louis Bulletin.*

INDIANS.—The Little Rock Gazette of last week says, that Capt. J. A. Phillips, of the U. S. Army, passed up to Fort Gibson the week previous, in the steamer Fox, with another body of emigrating Indians. The Arkansas Times states that a detachment of the U. S. Dragoons, under the command of Capt. E. Trevor, accompanied by the U. S. Commissioner, Col. Chouteau, left Fort Gibson in the early part of last month, to visit the Camanche and Kioway tribes of Indians. The object was to make a treaty with these tribes, and to induce them to send a deputation to Washington; also, to stop the war now waged by these Indians against the Osage nation. The Osages are said to be in a very destitute condition.—*St. Louis Bulletin.*

We understand that the fugitive Creeks in West Florida have at length been induced to submit, and have come in under the conduct of their chief, Coaha-jo, and Stephen Richards, Esq., who had been sent by Gov. Call to treat with them. This intelligence is communicated by a letter, received a few days since by the Governor, from Mr. Richards; who states, that the Indians, to the number of seventy, which is supposed to be all who were out, are now at Walker's Town, on the Apalachicola.—*Tallahassee Floridian, Jan. 6.*

THE CHEROKEE INDIANS.—Mr. Poinsett has addressed a letter to the Governor of Georgia, dated 28th ult., stating that all hopes are at an end, for the present, of conciliating the Cherokee Delegation at Washington, and inducing them to lend their influence for the quiet removal of the Cherokees. Mr. P. assures the Governor of Georgia that prompt and energetic measures will at once be taken to protect the border settlers; deems the interference of the State authorities unnecessary for the military defence of

that district of country; and earnestly requests the citizens residing there not to remove from their farms and plantations. Accompanying this letter is the correspondence between Mr. P. and the Cherokee Delegation on the subject. The Delegation propose to open a negotiation with the United States Government, upon matters of common interest to both parties, on the basis that the treaty of Dec. 1835, shall not be considered binding on either party. The reply of Mr. Poinsett states that the President regards the treaty of Dec. 1835, as the law of the land, that no negotiation therefore can be opened on the basis proposed, and that the Cherokees are expected to remove at the period stipulated by that treaty. It also censures the Delegation for holding out false hopes to their people.—*Charleston Courier.*

We have been informed that Mr. CATLIN, the artist, who has for some years past been engaged in taking the portraits of the principal Chiefs of the various tribes of Indians, arrived here yesterday in the steam packet from New York, and will proceed to take the portrait of Ocoola, and the other Chiefs now at Fort Moultrie, which portraits will be added to his already very extensive gallery, now in course of exhibition at the North. Mr. C. has, we learn, been engaged by the War Department, to paint the portraits of five of the principal chiefs, which, when completed, are to be forwarded to Washington, and placed among the collection that now adorns one of the rooms of the Department.—*Ibid, Jan. 18.*

Col Thompson, who fell in the late disastrous battle with the Indians, was well known and much esteemed here. He was a member of one of the Dutch churches in this city, and his afflicted widow belongs to one of our most respectable families.—*N. Y. Jour. of Com.*

From the Baltimore American.

IMPORTANT FROM THE MICHIGAN FRONTIER.—The following letter from a source of the first respectability at Detroit, conveys the particulars of important events which have just transpired in that quarter, in reference to the revolt in Canada. We have here the development of plans which have been heretofore occasionally hinted at in the accounts that have reached us from Buffalo.

DETROIT, Jan. 7, 1838.

Our city for the last three days has been in great confusion, in consequence of the extensive plan of invading Canada, by certain refugees and others, having been discovered.

Nothing of the movement was known, save that meetings had been held, and resolutions passed, but it was thought the matter would stop there. It has turned out differently, for, on Thursday night, all the arms in our City Arsenal were secretly taken away; on the same day four hundred stand were openly seized at Monroe, and on the succeeding nights our jail was robbed of all the arms and fixed ammunition which had been deposited there for safe-keeping.

The next morning a vessel, with about 800 stand and about 100 men, departed from our wharves for Bois Blanc—a British Island distant 19 miles hence, and opposite Malden, at the junction of the River Detroit with Lake Erie. Attempts were also to have been made upon our city powder magazine at Dearborn, which were frustrated by a guard being despatched from the city in time.

Besides these daring operations, supplies have been purchased and sent down to Bois Blanc—subscription papers circulated, and now containing 1000 names—commissions from Navy Island tendered and accepted—enrolments of about seven hundred men made in the different counties on the river—regular drills held—and, to cap the climax, a—Sutherland from New York, is hourly expected with a force from Cleveland to arrive at Gibraltar, 16 miles hence—the

point of rendezvous—and to take command of all the forces.

As Bois Blanc overlooks Malden, and has upon it the remains of an old breastwork, the Patriots design making it a depot, and intend, after leaving there a guard, to attack Malden, proceed to Sandwich and London, and effect a junction with McKensie, at Hamilton, Upper Canada.

All the operations have been conducted with efficiency and secrecy, and, as there are many disaffected on the proposed route, there is some feasibility in the plan. We think they will at least take Malden if they try.

From the number of men engaged, the amount of money expended, and the concert of action shown in this enterprise, we conclude that some able head is at work.

Governor Mason issued his proclamation three or four days ago, but it was disregarded. Yesterday the U. S. District Attorney despatched a steamboat with the Marshal and posse after the schooner, but they were defied, and threatened with the contents of an eighteen pounder, if they approached nearer than hailing distance.

Our citizens held a public meeting and passed resolutions expressing their disapprobation of the Patriot's measures, and organized a guard of one hundred men for the protection of the town, which was then without any arms save those of one volunteer corps, and liable to be plundered of its stores by the Patriots, or fired by the Royalists on the opposite side of the river.

Upon the return of the Marshal, a requisition for arms was made upon General Brady, U. S. A., which was granted. Arms from Dearborn were brought in, and an enrolment of 200 citizens made, to seize the schooner, if found within our jurisdiction. We think, however, she has reached her point of destination ere this.

The Patriots have a large body of men at Gibraltar, destined to co-operate with the vessel above alluded to, and to-morrow morning we may expect the grand move to be made upon the town of Malden.

I have thus given you some of the details of an enterprise which, however much we may sympathise with the Canadians, is a most flagrant violation of neutrality and national faith.

That all these enrolments should have been made—arms taken—men drilled—and this whole machinery of war put into operation—without the knowledge of our police, is a matter which our Government will find it exceedingly difficult to explain to the satisfaction of the British nation; and should that people make reprisals, or surprise our coast by a cannonade, an impartial judge would deem the retribution just.

P. S.—MONDAY MORNING, Jan. 8.—Sutherland has arrived at Gibraltar from Cleveland, with 70 men, and an attack upon Bois Blanc is contemplated this day.

Since the above was written, we have received a copy of the Detroit Daily Advertiser, of a late date, from which we copy the following leading and interesting article:

IMPORTANT MOVEMENT.

Great excitement prevailed in our city yesterday afternoon. It had become generally known that the Brady Guards, a volunteer corps, had received orders from Governor Mason to march to Dearbornville for the protection of the United States Arsenal at that place. It was announced on official authority, that apprehensions were felt for the safety of the arms, both at the Arsenal and in the Magazine in this city. Intelligence was also received that about 400 muskets had been taken from the depot at Monroe, and, as some accounts stated, after a spirited resistance on the part of the citizens. Some old pieces of cannon lying upon one of our wharves, were also said to have been secretly removed. And, finally, a meeting in be-

half of the Canadians had been called at the Theatre, for that afternoon, and some very important and delicate measures were anticipated on the part of the officers of the United States Government. We have not learned whether the meeting was actually holden. All these causes concurred to throw the city into a perfect turmoil. We shall hazard no remarks upon these occurrences until we have more accurately ascertained the exact facts. In the mean time, let every man do his duty. Let every public officer and every private citizen conduct himself in a manner becoming his own character and the reputation of the community. *The laws must be obeyed.*

We have been favored with copies of the requisition of General Brady, and the order of Gov. Mason, which we subjoin.

HEAD QUARTERS 7TH MILITARY DEPARTMENT,
DETROIT, Jan. 5, 1838.

Hon. S. T. MASON,

Governor of Michigan:

Sir,—Last evening I received an official letter from Major Webb, the United States officer in charge of the ordnance stores belonging to the United States, in the Arsenal at Dearborn, and the Military Magazine in the vicinity of Detroit, informing me that he has information from a source that cannot be doubted, that there is at this time a considerable body of men organizing in Michigan with a view of uniting with the Patriots, as they are called, in Canada; and that they contemplate to furnish themselves with arms, accoutrements, and amunitions from the Dearborn Arsenal, and the Military Magazine at Detroit, and urges on me the necessity of a Military Guard to protect this property; and believing myself, that, owing to the present singular excitement, a Guard for the above purpose is indispensable, I therefore in behalf of the United States, respectfully require of you a Guard, to consist of one Captain, one 1st Lieutenant, one 2d Lieutenant, three Sergeants, four Corporals, and forty-two privates, to be at the disposal of Major Webb, till instructions can be had on the subject from the Major General commanding the Eastern division of the United States Army, or the Commander-in-Chief at Washington.

I am, respectfully,

Your obt' servant,

H. BRADY,
Brig. Gen. U. S. A.

Head Quarters Michigan Militia, }
DETROIT, Jan. 5, 1838. }

To ISAAC S. ROWLAND,

Captain of the Brady Guards, Detroit:

You are hereby commanded to furnish from the Company under your command, the Guard required in the communication from Brig. Gen. Brady, U. S. A., a copy of which is herewith furnished you for guidance.

By order of the Commander-in-Chief,

JOHN WINDER,
Aid de Camp.

Correspondence of the Albany Argus.

FROM THE FRONTIER.

BUFFALO, January 16.—Dear Sir: The encampment on Navy Island, as I told you, broke up the night before last, the arms, artillery, &c., belonging to this State having been returned. The militia force was concentrated at the crossing from Grand Island to the main land on our shore, at which point the Marshal, under the direction of the District Attorney, arrested the chief of the patriot force, Van Rensselaar. He was taken to Buffalo, and instantly bailed, and left here again at 12 o'clock to join his command, which report says was then straggling through the country, on their way to a point up the Lake, where it is said transportation is in readiness to embark them for the Canada shore, in the direction of Detroit, about 750

strong. Lt. Col. Hughes is in command at Chipewa—McNabb retired.

From the Buffalo Commercial Advertiser, Jan. 16.

THE PATRIOT ARMY DISBANDED.—*The Barcelona.*—Night before last the *soi disant* patriot army on Navy Island, evacuated that position, crossing in their boats to Grand Island, surrendered their arms to the United States authorities, and disbanded their forces. The cannon belonging to the State were returned in a scow to Schlosser, and on the way, with all the men on board, came near going over the Falls. She had fallen far down the current, and the men had given up the case as hopeless, when a gale from the north-west sprang up, and by the aid of their blankets, wafted them on shore.

The British flag was yesterday morning hoisted on Navy Island.

The Barcelona went down to Schlosser yesterday morning. Three armed British schooners, upon the supposition that she was there to bring up the munitions of war of the disbanded army were stationed below Black Rock to intercept her, with orders to hail her, and upon her refusing to lay to and be searched, to fire upon her.

We understand that the proper representations having been made to the British commandant by Gen. Scott, she came up early this morning without molestation, to Black Rock Dam, where she now lies. We trust that this vexatious war, so far as the Navy Island men are concerned, is ended, and that no measures will be taken to re-concentrate the disbanded forces.

Gen. Van Rensselaer, of the late Patriot Army, Navy Island, was arrested last night by one of the U. S. Deputy Marshals, and liberated on giving bail for his appearance at the next session of the United States Circuit Court.

The bail taken was Mr. Van R's own recognizance in the sum of \$3,000, with Dr. E. Johnson, Geo. P. Barker, and H. K. Smith, Esqrs., in the additional sum of \$1,000 each.

The disbanding of the force at Navy Island has furnished an opportunity for ascertaining the number who were there assembled. They mustered in all 510, who were enrolled. Besides these there were something like 150 supernumeraries.

The U. S. Revenue Cutter, which lay at Erie, was cut out of that place, and arrived here last night, in accordance with an order to that effect from the Secretary of the Treasury. The lake is still open and in fine order for navigation.

MILITARY.—Yesterday forenoon, orders were issued by the commander of the forces for the immediate departure of the Hon. Col. Maitland, of the 32d regiment, to take command of the forces on the Niagara frontier; and that gentleman, accompanied by his Secretary and by Adjutant Kelly, left town about one o'clock. Lieut. Col. Wetherall is now in command of the Garrison.

The remainder of the 23d regiment, consisting of the Staff and Light Company, and also one Company of the 83d, leave this morning in sleighs for the same destination.

The whole of the 43d Light Infantry Regiment has arrived at Chambly.

The detachments of the 32d Regiment, which left this city on the 5th and 7th inst., and a detachment of the 24th, which left Carrillon about the same time, have arrived at Niagara.—*Montreal Courier, Jan. 15.*

From the Albany Daily Advertiser.

FROM THE FRONTIER.—The dates from Buffalo are to 5 o'clock on Saturday evening. No decisive movement had taken place on the part of the Navy Islanders, although it will be seen by the extracts below that there had been some pretty warm work on the part of the Canadians.

In addition to Gov. Marcy, Gen. Scott, and Adjutant Gen. Macdonald, whom we noticed yesterday, the Buffalo papers announce the arrival there of Gen. Wool, Col. Worth, and Lieut. Keyes, of the U. S. Army. Gov. Marcy and Gen. Scott reviewed, at Buffalo, on Friday, the 7th, 25th, and 28th regiments N. Y. S. Artillery, and afterwards that portion of Gen. Burt's brigade of Infantry, then in this city. Gen. Scott was actively engaged in the performance of the duties assigned him. We annex the following:

OCCUPATION OF FORT NIAGARA.—Capt. G. WRIGHT, of U. S. Army, commanding the recruiting station in this city, has received orders from Washington to occupy Fort Niagara with all his disposable force from here, and an additional number from Rochester to make up 50 men.

Capt. W., with his command, left the city this morning in the railroad cars.

Col. CUTLER of the U. S. Army, we learn, has received orders to repair to this frontier.—*Buffalo Jour. Jan. 11.*

SAVANNAH, Jan. 13.—The Br. ship Alexander Grant, Capt. Brown, bound to Liverpool, in working down river yesterday, when abreast of Cockspur, run into the ship Monticello, Capt. Lawton, also bound to Liverpool, and carried away her mizen mast, cross jack yard, stove upper cabin, bulwarks, staunchedons, boat, &c. We learn the Alexander Grant carried away her bobstay, injured her cutwater, &c.

Capt. Lawton tenders his sincere thanks to the commander of the U. States brig of war Porpoise, for his assistance rendered on board the Monticello, after being disabled by the Alexander Grant.

NORFOLK, Jan. 16.—The U. S. revenue cutter Tacey, JOHN A. WEBSTER, Esq., commander, arrived at this port yesterday from a cruise at sea, having been absent from port 16 days; during that period she has boarded and spoke a number of large and small vessels from various ports, none of which was in the least distress for want of provisions or men.

RAPID SAILING.—The brig Isaac McKim, Capt. Clarke, came up yesterday, having made her passage from Valparaiso in the remarkably short run of sixty-five days. This vessel left here at the beginning of July last, and has thus made a voyage to Chili and back in less than seven months. Despatch like this, in a voyage of such length, is but rarely accomplished.

Valparaiso letter of the 12th November states that the Chilian forces had landed in Peru, and were about to enter Arequipa without opposition.—*Baltimore American.*

NOTICE TO MARINERS.

The Light Ship, moored off the Middle Ground in Long Island Sound, has two lanterns, one on each mast, will be lighted at sunset during the season. She bears from the buoy on the shoalest part, N. E. distant about half a mile, from the Old Field Light S. $\frac{1}{2}$ W., Stratford Point Light N. $\frac{1}{2}$ E., Black Rock Light N. N. W. Vessels intending to go between the shoal and Long Island, bound eastward, by leaving the light on the larboard hand a short distance, will go clear. New York, January 18, 1838.

SAMUEL SWARTWOUT, Collector and Superintendent of Light Houses for the District of New York.

APPROPRIATION FOR THE HUDSON.—We learn through our attentive correspondent at Washington that the appropriation bill reported by the committee of ways and means, on the 12th inst., contains an appropriation of \$100,000 for the improvement of the navigation of the Hudson river. Although this is but about one half the amount estimated for the

year by Captain Brewerton, yet it is perhaps as much as could have been expected in the present condition of the treasury. The work will be vigorously prosecuted, and certainly with skill and efficiency in the hands of the present able and experienced engineer.—*Albany Argus*.

Correspondence of the United States Gazette.

"HARRISBURGH, Jan. 15, 1838.—On motion of Mr. REED, the House proceeded to the consideration of the resolution, asking of Congress an appropriation for the erection of a dry dock at the Philadelphia navy yard.

Mr. JOHNSON, although favorable to the improvement of the navy yard, and opposed to these eternal resolutions and requests, asking of Congress to advocate certain measures, he was satisfied that this course was weakening the influence of our delegation in Congress, who would, without this directing legislation, attend to their duties.

Mr. REED replied—the best dry dock in the country could be constructed in Philadelphia. There appeared to be some prejudice on the part of the National Government against that yard; that, because of the want of a dry dock, the "big ship" had been taken to Norfolk to be completed.

Mr. WATTS could not perceive any particular advantage which might result from the passage of this resolution, unless it might be to show the constituents of the gentlemen from the county how zealous he was to support their interests. He was opposed to the practice of instructing Congress upon every measure of this nature.

Mr. WILSON was opposed to the passage of this resolution, but suggested that the object of the mover might be attained by the members petitioning Congress upon the subject; he would cheerfully sign a petition for this purpose.

The resolution was adopted, but the preamble was negatived.

The resolution of Mr. KELLY, authorizing the Governor to present a sword to Gen. HUGH BRADY, as a testimonial of an appreciation of his gallant conduct during the late war, was unanimously adopted.

The late JOHN ROBERTSON, whose funeral takes place this afternoon, was a man whose history is full of interest, and would, if it were written, afford a treat to the lovers of revolutionary reminiscences. He was a native of New London, Conn., and entered the Navy at the age of 17, as a midshipman. After five years' hard and gallant service, he was captured in the CONFEDERACY ship of war, off the Capes of Delaware, and sent with his companions in arms on board the Jersey prison ship, at the Wallabout; where he was confined nearly two years. In this situation, however, he was the means of great alleviation to his suffering countrymen; for being singled out by the British officers as a young man of superior merit, he was appointed to a responsible station in the prison ship, and in that station he was instrumental in procuring the liberation of some hundreds of his countrymen. It was his lot, too, but a few days previous to his death, to do an act that will make a widowed woman comfortable through the remainder of her life. The widow of an officer of the revolution was reduced to poverty—there was no evidence of her husband's services, but that of Mr. R. Her friends called on him while on his dying bed, and though too weak to sit up, he recollected perfectly the services of the deceased officer, and made the affidavit which will secure the widow's pension, and the large arrears to which she is entitled.

After the war, Mr. Robertson was a ship master out of this port, and subsequently became a merchant, and made a competent fortune, which he has left to his children, untainted by a single act of life that they need to blush for in remembering.—*New York Gazette*.

ANOTHER SOLDIER OF THE REVOLUTION GONE.—Died, on the 8th inst. Col. WM. LAMAR, of Allegany county, in the 83d year of his age.

Col. Lamar was a native of Frederick county, Maryland, and has been a resident amongst us for more than thirty years past. He entered the Revolutionary army shortly after the declaration of Independence, in the 21st year of his age. He was appointed an ensign at the age of twenty-one, and not long afterwards he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant, then made quarter-master, and finally promoted to the rank of captain of the 7th Maryland regiment. The Col. was engaged in active service from the beginning to the close of the Revolutionary war, and never returned to his home but once during the whole time, and then enjoyed but a very short respite from duty. He was engaged in every important battle fought in the east until 1780. He was engaged at Harlem Heights—at the "White Plains"—at German Town—at Monmouth—Staten Island, and at other places. In 1780 he marched to the south, and at the battle of Camden was fighting by the side of the brave De Kalb under whose immediate command he was when that lamented officer was killed. With the southern army Col. Lamar remained as an active officer and soldier until the close of the war. He was at the battle of Guildford Court House—at Eutaw—and assisted at the capture of Forts Mott, Granby, and Watson.

The desperate charge of the American troops at Guildford, which turned the scale of battle in their favor, was ordered by Genl. Green at the instance of Col. Lamar, whose suggestion was communicated to the General through Major Anderson. At Fort Mott the Colonel also distinguished himself by suggesting the plan for setting fire to the fort, which was completely successful, and in a few moments compelled the garrison to surrender. The Colonel was also engaged at the siege of "Ninety-Six," under General Green. He had command of the mining party; a brother officer of Virginia was associated with him, but was compelled to withdraw on account of sickness. It was here the Colonel met Kosciusko, the immortal Poland, of whom he used to take great pleasure in relating the following anecdote. The Colonel being left in the sole command of the mining party, was anxious to procure some subaltern officer to assist him. Kosciusko hearing of this immediately stepped forward, and magnanimously offered to serve the Colonel in the capacity of a subaltern, and agreed to remain with him constantly for his relief. The Colonel used to say that he would not give Kosciusko for any other officer in the army.

Col. Lamar received several wounds in the battles of the Revolution. He was shot in the thigh at Guildford, and in the breast at Eutaw. Notwithstanding the many sufferings and privations he had to endure in the army, I have often heard him say that his time of service in the Revolution was a happy and joyous period of his life; that he had become fond of the changing scenes of military life, and was never disturbed by the least sense of its dangers.—*Cumberland Civilian*.

PERILS OF THE SEA.—The N. Y. Journal of Commerce says that Mr. Greenleaf, editor of the Sailors' Magazine, has kept a register of marine disasters which have come to his knowledge within the past year and the result is appalling. The whole number, counting only those which resulted in a total loss of the vessel, was no less than FOUR HUNDRED AND NINETY, viz:

Ships and barks,	-	-	-	94
Brigs,	-	-	-	135
Schooners,	-	-	-	234
Sloops,	-	-	-	12
Steamboats,	-	-	-	15
Total,	-	-	-	—490

Most of the vessels included in this melancholy list were American. Forty-three of them were lost towards the close of 1836; but the intelligence of their fate was not received here until 1837. Thirty-eight were lost in the month of January, fifty-four in February, twenty-four in March, thirty in April, nineteen in May, fifteen in June, forty-two in July, fifty in August, thirty-two in September, forty-three in October, forty-three in November, and six in December. The precise time when the remaining vessels were lost could not be satisfactorily ascertained.

In the above named vessels, says the Sailors' Magazine, one thousand two hundred and ninety-five lives are reported as being lost. This probably is but a part of the whole, for in many instances the crew are spoken of as missing, and in other cases nothing is said, where, perhaps, there was a total loss. Surely what is done for sailors should be done quickly.

AN INTERESTING DISCOVERY.—At a recent session of the Royal Academy of Sciences at Paris, M. Arago stated that a stone, bearing an inscription, and covered by a small vault, had been discovered at Cape Farewell, on the eastern coast of Greenland; and that, in the opinion of the Danish commandant of the settlement, this monument related to the unfortunate expedition and shipwreck of Capt. Blosseville, who was sent some years ago by the French Government on a voyage of Discovery to the North Polar regions.

ARMY.

ARRANGEMENTS IN THE QUARTERMASTER'S DEPARTMENT.

The jurisdiction of Lieut. Colonel Stanton, Quartermaster, temporarily extended to include the Boston district.

Captain Charles Thomas, Assistant Quartermaster, assigned to duty in Major General Scott's staff, on the Niagara frontier.

QUARTER MASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE, }
Jan. 20, 1838. }

NAVY.

ORDERS.

Jan. 12—Mid. W. B. Beverly, Navy Yard, New York.
Mid. H. L. Chipman, Naval School, do.
P. Mid. W. B. Renshaw, Rendezvous, do.
P. Mid. J. A. Winslow, do. Boston.
16—Lieut. T. D. Shaw, and P. Mid. W. Ross Gardner, det'd. from frigate Columbia.
Boatswain J. Mills, frigate Columbia.
18—P. Mid. W. D. Hurst, Rec'g ship Philadelphia.
Capt. L. Kearny, det'd. from S. S. S. & E. L.
20—Mid. C. H. Piper, Rec'g. vessel, Baltimore.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, January 19, 1838.

The Board of Naval Surgeons, convened at Philadelphia for the examination of Assistant Surgeons for promotion, and candidates for admission into the Navy, after finishing its labors, adjourned on the 16th inst.

The following Assistant Surgeons passed for promotion, viz.:

Henry S. Rennolds, to take rank next after passed Assistant Surgeon N. C. Barraquino.

Wm. F. McClenahan, Wm. L. Van Horn, and Daniel S. Green, to follow passed Assistant Surgeon M. G. Delany in the order here named.

The following candidates passed for their admission, viz.:

- No. 1. J. W. B. Greenhow,
2. Geo. Maulsby,
3. Charles J. Bates,
4. William A. Green,
5. William Grier,
6. Edwin H. Conway,
7. J. Winthrop Taylor,
8. James Monroe Minor,
9. Buckner T. McGill,
10. Phil'n Baker.

APPOINTMENTS.

Jan. 16—John Mills, acting Boatswain.
20—William Craig, acting Gunner.
22—Wm. S. Weed, acting Mid. re-appointed.

REVENUE CUTTER SERVICE.

OFFICERS ORDERED TO THE MADISON.

Captain, W. A. Howard. 1st Lieut. C. B. Childs.
2d Lieut. F. Martin. 3d Lieut. Supply C. Foss.
2d Lieut. W. B. McLean ordered to the Campbell, on the Coast of Florida.
2d Lieut. Wm. Russell ordered to the Jefferson, vice Stokes on leave.
3d Lieut. ——— Morrison to the Jefferson.

YELLOW PINE AND WHITE OAK TIMBER.

NAVY COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE, }
January 4, 1838. }

PROPOSALS, sealed and endorsed, will be received at this office until three o'clock, p. m. of the third day of February next, for the following Yellow Pine and White Oak timber, delivered at the Navy Yard, Gosport, Va.

- No. 1. One set of yellow pine beams, for a frigate of the first class.
- No. 2. Two sets of yellow pine beams, for sloops of war, first class.
- No. 3. Twenty thousand cubic feet of yellow pine plank stocks.
- No. 4. Twenty thousand cubic feet of yellow pine plank stocks.
- No. 5. Twenty thousand cubic feet do. do. do.
- No. 6. Twenty thousand cubic feet do. do. do.
- No. 7. Twenty thousand cubic feet do. do. do.
- No. 8. Twenty thousand cubic feet white oak plank stocks.

The beam pieces and one half of the plank stocks to be delivered on or before the 30th April, 1839, and the other half of the plank stocks on or before the 30th April, 1840.

Persons offering will make their offers separately for the quantities and kind of timber embraced in any of the above numbers, and they will be considered and decided independently of each other.

Schedules of the beam pieces will be furnished on application to the Commissioners of the Navy, or to the Commandant of the Navy Yard, Gosport, Virginia.

The yellow pine beam pieces and plank stocks must be the best quality *long leaf, fine grain, heart, Southern yellow pine timber*. The white oak plank stocks must be of the best quality, and must have grown on lands situated near to salt water, or within the influence of the sea air; and the white oak and yellow pine plank stocks must have been girdled or felled between the twentieth day of October and the twentieth day of March, next preceding the deliveries; all of which must be proved to the satisfaction of the commanding officer of the said Navy Yard, Gosport, Virginia.

All the said timber must be free from sap, heart shakes, wind shakes, and all other defects.

The plank stocks must average forty-five feet in length, and none of them must be less than thirty-five feet long; the white oak plank stocks must square not less than fourteen inches at the but, and may square one-fourth less at the top; the yellow pine stocks must square not less than fourteen, nor more than sixteen, inches at the but, and may square one-fifth less at the top.

Ten per centum will be withheld from the amount of each delivery made, as collateral security, in addition to the bonds given, to secure the performance of the respective contracts, which will in no event be paid until the contracts are complied with in all respects.

Ninety per centum will be paid within thirty days after the bills for the timber shall be approved and presented to the Navy Agent.

All of the said timber must be subject to inspection and measurement by the inspector and measurer of timber at the said Navy Yard, Gosport, or by such other person or persons as may be designated by the Commissioners of the Navy for the performance of that duty; and in all cases the timber must be in all respects to the acceptance and satisfaction of the commanding officer of the said Navy Yard, and approved by him.

Jan. 4—13Feb.